

1. (Amended) A valve actuation linkage mechanism for use in an internal combustion engine comprising:

a rocker arm having a pivot rod cup;

a valve bridge having a pivot rod chamber; and

a pivot rod comprising a pivot rod head, wherein at least a part of the pivot rod head pivots within the pivot rod cup, and comprising a pivot rod body, wherein at least a part of the pivot rod body pivots in the pivot rod chamber.

8. (Amended) A valve actuation linkage mechanism for use in an internal combustion engine comprising:

a rocker arm having a pivot rod cup;

a pivot rod;

a pivot rod retainer;

a valve bridge having a pivot rod chamber;

a middle valve bridge section having the pivot rod chamber and at least one adjacent pivot rod retainer securing bore; and

a bottom valve bridge section.

14. (Amended) A valve actuation linkage mechanism for use in an internal combustion engine comprising:

a pivot rod retainer;

a valve bridge having a pivot rod chamber; and

a pivot rod comprising a pivot rod head, wherein at least a part of the pivot rod head is pivotable within a pivot rod cup of a rocker arm, and comprising a pivot rod body, wherein at least a part of the pivot rod body pivots in the pivot rod chamber.